



SURVIVOR

Outreach Services (SOS)

OCTOBER 2011

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EDUCATION AID FOR RETIRED SOLDIERS' SPOUSES, SURVIVING SPOUSES

The Army Emergency Relief (AER) Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program (SSEAP) is available to spouses of Active Duty and Retired Soldiers, and widow (ers) of Soldiers who died either on Active Duty or in a retired status, and are residing in the United States. All spouses must be registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS), which can be verified at 1-800-538-9552. This program does not apply to second undergraduate or graduate degrees.

Those who receive free tuition through their jobs may not receive AER tuition assistance.

They may apply for assistance with fees, supplies, and books (no duplicates) for classes which they are enrolled as full-time students that are not covered by other funding.

Scholarship awards are based on financial need, as evidenced by the Estimated Financial Contribution (EFC) number provided on the Student Aid Report (SAR). The SSEAP scholarships for stateside students are awarded annually for up to four academic years to attend post-secondary school full-time as undergraduate level students. Funds are to assist with academic expenses.

They may apply for assistance with fees, supplies, and books (no duplicates) for classes which they are enrolled as full-time students that are not covered by other funding.

Scholarship funds will be paid by AER and disbursed to the college or university. Students must maintain a grade point average of at least a 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale.

Applications for the academic year will be available online at www.aerhq.org.

ARMY SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN PROGRAM MANAGER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Enduring Freedom Memorial Re-Dedication
- Turkey-To-Troops 2011
- Snowball Express VI
- Army Survivor Benefits Plan

November 18 will mark the 13th anniversary of the law that established the Annuity for Certain Military Surviving Spouses (ACMSS), also known as the "forgotten widows" benefit. Congress enacted ACMSS to provide a small annuity for Surviving Spouses of Retirees who died before enactment of Reserve Component SBP

(RCSBP). The Surviving Spouses of Retirees who were in receipt of retired pay may be eligible if the retirement was before September 21, 1972, and the death was before March 21, 1974. Surviving Spouses of "gray area" Reserve Retirees may be eligible if the Reservist had at least 20 qualifying years of service; would have

been eligible to receive retired pay at age 60; and died before October 1, 1978. In order to be eligible, the Surviving Spouse must have never remarried and cannot be eligible for any other military Survivor annuity. The pay can be retroactive as

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SPRING 2012 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION-HOPE FOR THE WARRIORS

The Spouse/Caregiver Scholarship program identifies, recognizes, and rewards spouses/caregivers for their strength, fidelity, and resolve despite adversity. Scholarships aid in continued education at a reputable, accredited university, college, or trade school for spouses/caregivers as they assume critical roles in the financial well being of their families.

Scholarship awards are \$5,000 to be made co-payable to the scholarship recipient's institution for payment of tuition, books and supplies and may be reapplied for up to four years for a maximum of \$20,000. The application process is the same for new applicants and renewals.

For more information and eligibility, please visit <http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org/spouse.html>.



FISHER HOUSE HELPS SERVICE MEMBERS' CHILDREN

By Terri Moon Cronk
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 8, 2011 - Military children of service members who died or who were seriously disabled in the line of duty might be eligible for a college education through the Fisher House Foundation.

Foundation chairman Kenneth Fisher says the Heroes' Legacy scholarships can be used by students to attend school in the fall. The application process is under way and open to the children of all branches of the military.

"We want to help these very special children go to school," Fisher said.
"It's just one small way that we say thank you."

The program is for children whose parent died while on active duty, following Sept. 11, 2001. And, children whose parent became disabled while serving might be eligible, depending on qualifications for the Heroes' Legacy scholarship, at <http://militaryscholar.org/index.html>.



In general, the scholarships will cover tuition, books, lab fees, and room and board to accredited U.S. post-secondary institutions of higher learning, according to the website.

The Heroes' Legacy scholarship grants are principally underwritten by the author's after-tax proceeds from the book, "Of Thee I Sing. A Letter to My Daughters," written by President Barack Obama. The amount awarded each year will depend on the amount of royalties and other donations.

Fisher Foundation offers two additional scholarships: Scholarships for Military Children and Scholarships for Military Spouses.

ARMY SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN PROGRAM MANAGER CONT...

well. Since ACMSS was enacted, the Army has approved 1,266 Surviving Spouses to receive this payment. The average age of the Surviving Spouse approved for ACMSS was 89. An ACMSS application, DD Form 2769, and assistance can be obtained by contacting the nearest Army Retirement Services Officer (RSO) or online at www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2769.pdf.

**TURKEY-TO-TROOPS 2011**

AZ Heroes to Hometowns is working with local food banks to support military families for this upcoming Thanksgiving season.

Heroes to Hometowns is in need of \$10.00 grocery gift cards for a turkey or ham for Thanksgiving dinner to complete the food boxes. Donations of grocery gift cards, check, or PayPal on the website at www.azheroestohometowns.org are being utilized for donations.

DONATE ONLINE WITH PAYPAL. Heroes to Hometowns is in need of 2,400 gift cards (\$10.00 each) to help our Wounded Warriors, Deployed Families of the military, Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Families this Thanksgiving season. Items are needed by November 1, 2011 to allow time to get the grocery gift cards to the six Arizona locations to be distributed along with the food boxes. The event will be held on 6 November 2011 at the 52nd Street Armory located at 5636 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85008. Please call or email Kathy Pearce at kathypearce1@cox.net if you need additional information.




TRICARE FEES INCREASE

FY12 Prime Enrollment Fee Increase

Some of you may be aware of discussions or are starting to get questions from beneficiaries about an increase in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees. Yes, they are increasing, but only for new enrollments received by the regional contractor on or after October 1, 2011.

The Secretary of Defense is allowed by law to set a premium, deductible, copayment, or other charge for health care, including enrollment fees. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs has been given the authority to run the health program and has authorized the enrollment fee increase. This modest annual fee increase helps TRICARE to responsibly manage costs in line with other Secretary of Defense initiatives announced earlier this year.

The President's Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 proposed increasing the annual TRICARE Prime enrollment fee from \$460/\$230 (family/individual) to \$520/\$260, with a certain exception, beginning October 1, 2011. All recent indications are that the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012, still to be enacted will not prohibit this increase. The exception, which requires rulemaking (a proposed rule is in coordination) or exercise by the Assistant Secretary (Health Affairs) [ASD(HA)] of waiver authority, is for survivors of active duty deceased members and medical retirees and their eligible family members.



TRICARE® Prime Enrollment Fees

Beginning on October 1, 2011, TRICARE will make modest adjustments to TRICARE Prime enrollment fees that amount to an additional \$5 a month for families and \$2.50 a month for individuals. The new fees are outlined in the table below.

Fiscal Year 2011 (October 1, 2010– September 30, 2011)	Fiscal Year 2012 (October 1, 2011– September 30, 2012)
\$230/individual	\$260/individual
\$460/family	\$520/family

Retired service members and their eligible family members, survivors, and former spouses pay TRICARE Prime enrollment fees, which are applied to the annual catastrophic cap. There are no enrollment fees for active duty service members (ADSMs) and active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Prime Remote, or TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members.

NO CHANGE IN FEES THIS YEAR FOR CURRENT ENROLLEES

The fee increase applies only to new enrollees whose TRICARE Prime applications are received on or after October 1, 2011. The fee for current enrollees will be frozen at the fiscal year 2011 rate—so if you are already enrolled in TRICARE Prime, your payments will not change in the coming year, as long as you remain in TRICARE Prime. Moving forward, TRICARE

Prime enrollment fees will be subject to increases each fiscal year. Current enrollees, whose fees will not change for fiscal year 2012, will experience a yearly change in fees beginning in fiscal year 2013.

EXCEPTIONS FOR SURVIVORS AND MEDICALLY RETIRED SERVICE MEMBERS

An exception to the fee increase will be made to allow survivors of active duty deceased and medically retired uniformed service members and their dependents enrolled in TRICARE Prime to be exempt from future enrollment fee increases.

Beneficiaries in these categories before October 1, 2011, will have the annual enrollment fee frozen at the current rate of \$230 per individual and \$460 per family. Beneficiaries added to these categories on or after October 1, 2011, will have their fee frozen at the rate in effect at the time they are classified in either category. The fee remains frozen as long as at least one family member remains enrolled in TRICARE Prime and there is no break in enrollment. The fee charged for the dependents of a medically retired uniformed service member will not change if the dependents are later reclassified as survivors.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Moving forward, there will still be no out-of-pocket costs for ADSMs, no changes to TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra, and no change to the catastrophic cap for all plans. For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/costs.

FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

<p>N TRICARE North Region Health Net Federal Services, LLC 1-877-TRICARE (1-877-874-2273) www.hnfs.com</p>	<p>S TRICARE South Region Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. 1-800-444-5445 www.humana-military.com</p>	<p>W TRICARE West Region TriWest Healthcare Alliance 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378) www.triwest.com</p>
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This fact sheet is not all-inclusive. For additional information, please visit www.tricare.mil.

An Important Note about TRICARE Program Information
At the time of printing, this information is current. It is important to remember that TRICARE policies and benefits are governed by public law and federal regulations. Changes to TRICARE programs are continually made as public law and/or federal regulations are amended. Military treatment facility guidelines and policies may be different than those outlined in this product. For the most recent information, contact your TRICARE regional contractor, TRICARE Service Center, or local military treatment facility.

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September 2011

ENDURING FREEDOM MEMORIAL REDEDICATION-OCTOBER 2011



Artist: Clyde "Ross" Morgan

In honor of our men and women from Arizona serving in our armed forces who lost their lives fighting terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the Southwest Asia Theatre of Operation.

Saturday, October 29, 2011, 10:00a.m.

Arizona State Capital

Wesley Bolin Plaza

1700 W. Washington St. Phoenix, Arizona

For more information, please visit

www.veteransfirstltd.org for Area Parking Map.

Veterans First Ltd. Phone: 602-841-7663 Email:

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR SNOWBALL VI

Snowball Express VI is approaching. December 9 - 13. Please sign up now.

All of the Charters will pick up families from around the United States and bring them to Dallas on Friday, December 9th. Our families who reside overseas will be scheduled to arrive on December 8th. If you have not signed up already, please sign up now. Once you have officially registered for this year, we will contact you with additional information.

Pull down the "families" tab above and click on family registration. If you have previously registered with Snowball Express, enter your e-mail address and password, click on the small arrow. When your data appears, click on your id # and then on edit. In the "plan to attend box" click on Snowball VI and save. Please repeat the process for each of your children.

If you are registering as a new family, instead of clicking on the arrow, click on register a fallen hero and follow the forms.

We can't wait to see you in December.

For more information about Snowball Express, please visit <http://www.snowballexpress.org/>.



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Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator, Contractor Army Survivor Outreach (SOS) Program
5636 East McDowell Road, Bldg M5710 Attn: SOS Phoenix, Arizona 85008-3495

RESOURCES

Education Websites

Army Family Programs
www.arfp.org

Beaumont Foundation of America
www.bmtfoundation.com

Camp Solari
www.solarihospice.com/go2/solari-kids-camp.cfm

Child Grief Education Association
www.childgrief.org/

Children of Fallen Heroes
www.cfsrf.org

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation
www.fallenpatriots.org

Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund
www.cfsrf.org

Fisher House Foundation
www.fisherhouse.org

Folds of Honor Foundation
www.foldsofhonor.org

Scholarships

Spouse/Caregiver Spring 2012 Scholarship
<http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org/scholarelign.html>

FRY Scholarship
http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/factsheets/fry_scholarship.pdf

Pat Tillman Scholarship
http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/education_resources/Tillman_Scholarship.html

<http://www.foldsofhonor.org/scholarships>

<http://militaryscholar.org/index.html>

TRICARE

General number: 1-888-363-5433

North region: 1-877-874-2273

West region: 1-888-874-9378

South region: 1-800-444-5445

<http://www.tricare.mil>

Additional Resources

Military OneSource
<http://www.militaryonesource.com>

Army Survivor Benefits

1-800-626-3317

<http://www.armycasualty.army.mil>

Navy Survivor Benefits

1-800-368-3202

<http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/>

Marine Corps Survivor Benefits

1-800-847-1597

<http://www.manpower.usmc.mil>

Air Force Survivor Benefits

1-800-433-0048

<http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil>

Coast Guard Survivor Benefits

<http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/sbp.asp>

Please visit us on our website: <http://www.azguard.gov/families/SOS.htm>